

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

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R 241003Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2980
INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 7740

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT,ID

SUBJECT: STATUS OF JANUARY 15 DETAINEES

REFS: A. STATE 132718 B. JAKARTA 4780 C. EMBASSY MEMO 5/14/74

SUMMARY: DETAINEE SITUATION REMAINS ASICALLY AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, WITH EXCEPTION OF ONE ADDITIONAL RECENT ARREST. BAKIN HEAD JUNE 21 ANNOUNCED TRIALS OF DETAINEES WOULD COMMENCE "SOON", AND EMBASSY SOURCES ESTIMATE STUDENTS AND FORMER MPR MEMBERS AMONG DETAINEES LIKELY TO BE FIRST TRIED. NO CHANGES HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN STATUS OF BUYUNG NASUTION OR YAP THIAM HIEN, WITH FORMER REPORTEDLY CONTINUING CONTENTIOUS EXCHANGES WITH HIS INTERROGATORS. EARLY TRIAL OF NASUTION OF YAP APPEARS HIGHLY UNLIKELY. END SUMMARY

1. TO BEST OF EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, STATUS AND COMPOSITION OF POLITICAL DETAINEES FROM JANUARY 15 EPISODE REMAIN BASICALLY AS DESCRIBED IN REF C (COPY TO EA/IMS). WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS OF ONE ADDITIONAL RECENT ARREST, OF ENGGAK BAHAU'DDIN, FORMER MEMBER OF EDITORIAL STAFF OF MOCHTAR LUBIS' INDONESIA RAYA, REPOTEDLY CHARGED WITH SUBVERSION. NO FURTHER RELEASES OF DETAINEES HAVE
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BEEN REPOTED. CONDITIONS OF DETAINMENT CONTINUE QUITE

HUMANE. FAMILIES OF DETAINEES ARE PERMITTED TO SEE THEM AT REGULAR INTERVALS; AT LEAST ONE STUDENT DETAINEE AND PERHAPS MORE ALLOWED TO STUDY; AND YOUNG FATHER RECENTLY PERMITTED TO RETURN HOME FOR BRIEF PERIOD TO SEE NEWBORN CHILD.

2. LATEST PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROSPECTS FOR TRIAL OF DETAINEES CAME IN STATEMENT JUNE 21 BY BAKIN HEAD LT.GEN. YOGA SUGAMA TO PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE THAT DETAINEES WOULD BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL "SOON". YOGA RESTATED GOVERNMENT CONTENTION THAT JANUARY 15 AFFAIR (NOW DESIGNATED BY ACRONYM "MALARI" FB "LIMA BELAS JANUARI" -- JANUARY 15) WAS AN "ACT OF TREASON" AIMED AT TOPPLING SUHARTO GOVERNMENT AND WAS CLIMAX OF A PLANNED MOVEMENT BY MEMBERS OF "BANNED POLITICAL PARTIES" (READ: PSI) AND LEFTIST PNI MEMBERS WORKING THROUGH ELEMENTS OF ARMED FORCES. SOME PRESS REPORTS OF YOGA STATEMENT LEFT OPEN POSSIBILITY THAT GOVERNMENT MAY CLAIM TWO SEPARATE PLOTS -- ONE BY PSI GROUP, ANOTHER BY LEFT-PNI TYPES.

3. OTHER EMBASSY SOURCES CONFIRM THAT EARLY TRIALS ARE PLANNED, AND THAT THE FIRST TRIALS WILL BEGIN IN THE "VERY NEAR FUTURE." TRIALS REPORTEDLY WILL PROCEED SERIATIM IN GROUPS RATHER THAN ONE LARGE AFFAIR. SINCE LATE APRIL WHEN ATTORNEY GENERAL FIRST SUGGESTED THAT TWO DETAINEES WOULD BE TRIED "SOON", MOST EMBASSY SOURCES HAVE SPECULATED THAT STUDENTS, SPECIFICALLY HARIMAN SIREGAR, WOULD LIKELY BE FIRST TRIED. CURRENT INFORMATION FAVORS STUDENTS AND EX-MPR MEMBERS AS GOING FIRST. ONE SOURCE ESTIMATES AT LEAST HALF OF TOTAL DETAINEE GROUP WILL BE TRIED IN COMING PERIOD, ALTHOUGH ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID HAS BEEN REPORTED AS DOUBTFUL THAT HE HAS "ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO PROSECUTE."

4. NO REPORTS MENTION POSSIBILITY OF EARLY TRIAL FOR BUYUNG NASUTION OR YAP THIAM HIEN. NASUTION IS REPORTEDLY NOW HELD IN SEPARATE DETENTION CENTER, AND HAS CONTINUED HIGHLY SPIRITED AND UNCOMPROMISING EXCHANGES WITH HIS INTERROGATORS. LIKELIHOOD THAT GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO MOUNT CONVINCING TRIAL OF NASUTION AT ANY TIME IN NEAR FUTURE SEEMS VERY SLIM.

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5. FOR LATEST EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONER ISSUE IN INDONESIA, SEE REF B.
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